

OCT 11 1962

Page 2 J.B. DONOVAN
x Col 4 tractor
x ag 2

Approved For Release 2000/08/24 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000200020012-1

SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL

EVENING 131,617

Cash for Castro?

CPYRGHT BY ALEXANDER F. JONES
Executive Editor, Herald-Journal

The Associated Press reports, in a Washington dispatch, that the White House and Central Intelligence Agency may be planning to pay at least part of any ransom demanded by Castro for the release of prisoners taken in the abortive invasion.

If this is true, it will be the last straw in the dismal handling of the Cuban situation.

Originally Castro demanded tractors in exchange for the invasion prisoners. This blackmail attempt failed when storms of protests followed the appointment of a committee to confer with Castro.

Since then a handful of the prisoners have been released on payment of ransom demands, presumably by individuals.

Now James B. Donovan, Democratic candidate for U. S. senator, is in Havana conferring with the communist renegade for the release of the 1,131 captured in April, 1961, when President Kennedy withdrew air support at the Bay of Pigs at the last moment.

It can be taken for granted that Mr. Donovan is not going to be able to negotiate the release of these men with nothing handed over in return.

If they are released for return to Miami, it is certain that there has been a deal involving a lot of money or relaxation of blockade plans or present sugar and other economic restrictions.

They will not be coming to the U. S. with the blessing of Fidel Castro and his Moscow pals—be sure of that.

And what will that mean?

It will mean that this nation is crawling while Castro and his refugees from the barber shop crack the whip.

We will be saying that the U. S. was really responsible for the half-baked invasion and feels duty bound to see to it that the prisoners are returned to our shores.

Mr. Donovan engineered the release of Francis Powers, sentenced to a 10-year term in the Soviet Union for being the pilot in the U-2 incident.

In that case the Russians got back Col. Rudolph Ivanovich Abel, a major spy who was badly wanted by his espionage supervisors. The Reds feel they got the best of the deal and maybe they did.

If money is paid by any U. S. department or agency for these men the attempt will be made to prove it was done to save human lives—an act of solicitude for their families.

It will be a craven surrender to a peewee dictator who is backed by our real enemy—the Soviet Union.

It will be a blow from which every red-blooded American will cringe.

What is the difference between tractors and cash?